

# The Carversvillian

THE VOICE OF THE HISTORIC CARVERSVILLE SOCIETY

October 2013

## General Membership Meeting — November 18

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Historic Carversville Society will be held on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at The Carversville Inn. Will and Denie Mathias have graciously hosted the meeting for many years.

**The doors open at 6:30 p.m.**, so stop by, spend an evening with friends and neighbors, meet new residents of the Village and get an update on the activities of your Society. It is also the time to renew your membership. During the social hour, wine is supplied as well as delicious edibles from the Inn kitchen, compliments of the Inn and HCS.

**The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.** and usually lasts no longer than 1 – 1 ½ hours. The agenda follows a usual introduction of Board Members, a summary of the events of the year, updates on what we have been doing and a guest lecturer.

Come to the meeting and get to know your Board Members. We are interested in your input and ideas. All of us on the Board are volunteers; we do this because we love Carversville! We hope that you will consider volunteering in some capacity as well. The Historic Carversville Society survives because of the dedication of community members who chose to give back to their community. We hope to see you on the 18<sup>th</sup>.



## It's Pumpkin Carving Time already!

**Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 to 4 p.m.**

**In the Meadow beyond the Inn**

Can you believe how quickly we moved from the Summer heat to these Fall crisp mornings? It was just a short while ago we were all sweltering wondering if we would see these cooler temperatures again. Sure enough sunsets are earlier and the pumpkins are cropping up in orchards and farm stands alike; even in our own annual meadow pumpkin patch beyond the Carversville Inn!

It's our annual Carversville Pumpkin Carving for all ages! Save the date and join us on Sunday afternoon, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m. to carve a Jack-o-lantern and enjoy fresh cider and donuts. All you need: decorating and carving ideas, good cheer and clothes that can get messy! We provide the pumpkins, tools, paints, tealight candle, cider and donuts! It's always fun too see everyone and get ready for Halloween together.



**Visit our website at [www.carversville.com](http://www.carversville.com)**

# From the President . . .



To the Membership,

Each time I sit down to write something as the President of HCS, I am at my computer looking out onto Aquetong Road. Yesterday at this time, bicycles were racing by. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Thompson Bucks County Bicycle Race during which riders complete six laps through Carversville. It is an international race that draws people from all over the world. What a thrill it was to be in the square with all our neighbors and friends, watching the cyclists go by. We had a first-hand view. This year, in addition to Will and the Carversville Inn cooking and selling food out front, Max Hansen and his general store were busy selling food as well.

There has been a lot of activity in the square and it seems busier than ever. With Max Hansen taking over the store and its kitchen, there are new menus, longer hours and a larger variety of food. The Inn as always provides the locals with a place to “hang out” and enjoy each other while drinking and dining more often than not.

I have watched the mix of people change as well over the past 25 years. With my girls now grown up and gone, there are so many young children living here once again. It is exciting to see them each riding bikes, running and having fun in the creek.

We will be welcoming several new board members who are adding to the discussions and planning for our future. We would love to welcome even more community members to our board. Please let me know if you are interested.

As we have moved into fall, I look forward to our Pumpkin Carving, the Annual Meeting and Caroling in the Square. Each of these is an activity sponsored by the Historic Carversville Society. So come and join us, help us, volunteer with us and enhance your enjoyment of living here in beautiful Carversville.

*Susan Hollander Whitman*

## Visit our Website!

Yes... our Village of Carversville has a website! Go to Carversville.com to keep up to date on the activities and news. We continue to endeavor to make our site current and keep it filled with helpful information on our village.

If you have any questions or comments email us at [news@carversville.com](mailto:news@carversville.com). In that vein, please be sure to save our two email addresses in your address book. We will be sending out notices from time to time from [events@carversville.com](mailto:events@carversville.com) to all HCS members. If you would like to be included in our mailing list for events and newsletters and haven't joined HCS then email us and we will be glad to add you!

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# A View from the Village

A typical weekend in Carversville consists of men and women in tight, colorful clothing, and their *uber* expensive bikes, refueling at the General Store. This is a ritual of sorts.

But the weekend of September 7 in Carversville was different: one group of riders—all young men—wore super skin-tight racing suits and zipped by the Village paced by a Solebury Township Police Department escort. Thus, they bypassed pork tacos from Chef Max Hansen and crab cakes from Chef Will Mathias.

The nearly 200 hundred riders, most of whom were from the United States, included professional cyclists Canada, Mexico, Europe, South America, New Zealand and Australia, were racing in the second annual Thompson Bucks County Classic bicycle race, a two-day event that concluded Sunday, September 8 with a Criterium in Doylestown.

The six-lap event started in New Hope and wound its way via Sугan Road to to Sawmill and Aquetong roads and into the Village where spectators in the Square saw the peloton scream around the corner to Carversville Road at close to 40 miles per hour—well above the oft ignored speed limit of 25. The riders, with a phalanx of support vehicles screeching at their rear wheels, hung a right at Noel Barrett's house to face the rather unpleasant sight of the hill at Wismer Road, where their fast pace was humbled to a mere humanly acceptable 12 or 13 miles per hour.

But sustaining 12 miles per hour up a half-mile climb on a hot day, being chased by some of the best up and coming riders in the pro cycling circuit, is not mortal at best. And they had to do it five more times.

Last year the race came under the sponsorship of the Thompson family of auto dealerships in Bucks County and the name changed from the Univest Grand Prix. That race was also a two-day event but the first day's race was held near Souderton. The present race director John Eustice of Sparta Cycling personally mapped the current course in Solebury and Plumstead townships. According to participants, the course proved both alluring and challenging.

Major cycling events like the Tour de France are known as stage races because each day of the race is in a different location. These multi-day competitions rarely cover the

same ground twice in a year (this year was an exception: one stage of the 21-day race had riders do two grueling laps over the same mountain road the same day).

So-called Classic races are usually one-day events exclusive to Europe. What occurred in Carversville was pretty much an American phenomenon—cyclists racing on a circuit as opposed to a point-to-point European-style race. The goal of riders in the Thompson Bucks County Classic, besides winning, was to gain experience to prepare for team racing on the European circuit.

One of the teams stayed in the Village for four days. Members of Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant Cycling Team, which hails from Colorado, stayed at my home. They were awed by our village and the stunning beauty of the county. One member of the team actually trained here when he was a student at Princeton University from 2008 to 2012. My wife Judy and I were

blown away by their graciousness and gratitude—and their ability to consume 6,000 to 7,000 calories a day.

Why is Carverville so popular with cyclists? There are several factors. The roads are reasonably free of cars; Max Hansen's Carversville Market is a watering hole; the village is a hub for people coming from all parts of the county and New Jersey; it's a jumping off point for riders heading to New Jersey. And it's really pretty here. Oh, and the people are nice, too.

At the end of the day, despite nice host families, spectators, crab cakes and tacos, riders would prefer any of the above, plus a cold beer, over Wismer hill any day.

*Paul Savage*



# My Old House

After leaving Manhattan behind, Robert and I moved to Bucks County renting in Point Pleasant in 1990. We often cycled through the countryside, and found our way to Carversville. We were each drawn to its personality, beauty and charm. As we started looking to buy a house together, our realtor and friend was getting frustrated with us until, one day in the Autumn of 1991 he called and came with us to Carversville. He told us to crawl through a window of 6151 Carversville Road. I can still remember Dave saying: "I think I may have the right place for you...trust me on this and follow me!" Boy, was he right. It was love at first sight! Never mind the fact that we set off the alarms and the police came! (That was one way to see how quickly our local authorities would respond!) We eventually purchased the house from a lovely couple, Richard Compher and Veronica Cartright, both in the movie business, he a director and she an actress best known at the time as the uptight wife of the preacher in "The Witches of Eastwick," who were looking to consolidate to LA and start a family.

More than 20 years later, our "Old House", aka "The Charles Ward House," has witnessed many important events including our own marriage ceremony and reception, a family of 2 daughters, lively pets, multiple floods, and so much more.

Our bank house is one of 2 existing homes in the Village built with dried clay blocks in the French Huguenot style. Ours was built in either 1850 or in the 1870's, depending on which history you read, by mill owner, Henry Stover. The Huguenot's were known for fast construction using sundried clay blocks placed on a stone foundation with a stucco adobe façade to protect the clay's structural integrity.

As noted, there is some debate about the exact year our house was built. We were very fortunate to know Mr. Ned Harrington, a well-known local historian, for many years after moving to Carversville. Mr. Harrington was happy to supply us with a wealth of historical documentation on our property. In amongst this information, and others we received, was a letter, handwritten by Helen B. Stover, that she had addressed to the new owners in March of 1938. In this note, she described our property as being part of the "Stover Purchase." She goes on to write, "The house was built of sand bricks dug and made where our barn now stands, probably somewhere about 1850 to 54, and later purchased by my Grandfather Josiah Hellyer about 1876 or 7." The barn that she writes of, which was located at the main Stover family residence just up the hill, burned down years ago. Helen also wrote that our barn/shed, which sits behind the adjacent schoolhouse (perhaps more on this



storied schoolhouse in another issue of the Carversvillian) at creek level, was made from recycled materials from a home below the iron bridge on "Lumberville Road."

The odd shape of for our property is a story on its own. When we first fell in love with the house and then gazed out to the creek we thought each of our neighbors owned the land behind each of their houses down to the north fork of the Paunacussing Creek. This was not the case. It turned out that our house accompanied all of the "meadow" behind the other homes because it was acquired by the Stover's with raceway rights for their mill operation. There are remnants of the stone dam they built at the west end of our long, skinny property. This meadow is the defacto flood plain for the north fork, and serves as an advanced warning system, flooding in advance of flooding in the village.

Our house has seen its share of interesting residents. Along with Stover family members and others, Charles and Anna Ward lived for 48 years from 1938 to 1986 raising two daughters. Charles Ward is best known as a Bucks County landscape artist, as well as nationally recognized for having painted the first of the WPA Public Works Art Projects, a mural in what was at the time the main post office in Trenton (now the Court House) during the Great Depression. He went on to paint other WPA murals including a second at the Trenton post office, and another at the main post office in Roanoke, VA. He left a strong mark on the "Arts and Crafts" interior of the house including his hand wrought spiral stairs and cabinet work. It has been delightful to learn family stories from the Ward daughters, Kristina and Mary Ellen, and to hear from neighbors or passersby who took piano lessons from Anna Ward on one of her two grand pianos. Music continues to fill the house now with

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## My Old House *(continued)*

piano practicing, singing etc. on a regular basis. I sometimes feel Anna is with us and smiling.

One of the mysteries of our house is the doors. The original house has two doors on the roadside, and the same on the back. Some historians claim that in the 1800's it was customary to build houses this way. One door was for general use and the "other" door, usually a little bit wider, was used only for your final exit during funerals. We've surmised that it is more likely that one door was used by the family and the second door as entrance to a Stover son-in-law's dental surgery. In 2000 we put a clapboard addition on the house, which added a 3<sup>rd</sup> door to each side. I wonder what later generations will make of that!

While there is always more to tell, hopefully this gives you a flavor of our old house. If you see us outside gardening or playing with our dog Indi...come say hello and share your stories!

Kathy Stein

*\*\*As a side note: We were very privileged to work with Richard Yarnall as our architect for the addition in 1999/2000. He was persuaded to "come out of retirement" to keep the integrity of our "Old House" in tact. He did that and so much more for us. Richard passed away in September. He will be greatly missed.*

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## The Importance of Oral History

Did you know Bob Kling's Antique Shop once served as a dance hall? Or that the Carversville Inn had a gas station out front? Facts like these are important in helping to preserve the history of our community, and through oral history we can learn about events, architecture and daily life here in Carversville.

The Historic Society is searching for volunteers to continue this tradition. By recording firsthand accounts, we are helping keep a historical record of our village. I've learned each person can view/remember history differently, and since one's memory may not be the same as another, it makes for interesting conversation. We are open to all persons (young and old) that feel they have valuable oral contributions that will keep our history from receding into the past and being forever forgotten. We're also in need of volunteers who are interested in recording these fascinating stories.

If you wish to forward someone name, contact Michele Stulpin via email at [mstulpin@msn.com](mailto:mstulpin@msn.com).

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## Historic Carversville Society Scholarship

Each year, the Historic Society presents at least one scholarship to a graduating senior from the New Hope-Solebury High School. This year we presented 3, totaling \$2000. This award is presented to a student or students going on for further education, who have shown civic involvement, historic concern and/or have been involved in community volunteer work. Applications are submitted through the New Hope-Solebury High School Guidance Department, and are reviewed by the Historic Society each May.

The award this year was given to Juliana Heffern, Angie House, and Katie Dick. Each of these women is well deserving of a scholarship for community service and we are pleased to have chosen them. All 3 were members of the National Honor Society and were excellent students.

Juliana has grown up in Carversville. She has participated in and helped with all community activities that include years of Clean-Up Day, Carversville Day, the Art Sale, Films in the Field and the Church Oyster and Pork dinner. In addition, she has participated in many school community service activities through Key Club and the National Honor Society. She has played sports and participated in many other extra-curricular clubs. She is currently attending Hobart and William Smith College as a freshman.

Angie too has many community service activities through the National Honor Society. In addition she volunteered with the Start Program, Steps for Success, Tackle Buddy Program, and with a Pediatric Specialty Care Center. Each of things involved 1:1 tutoring and mentoring with different populations including the elderly, youngsters and those with disabilities. She has participated in church activities, been on Mission Trips, volunteered at the Trenton Soup Kitchen and in Nursing Homes and helped on MLK service day. She is currently attending the University of Pittsburgh.

Katie is the 3<sup>rd</sup> recipient of a scholarship. She is an EMT who has volunteered in the New Hope-Lambertville Rescue Squad. She went out on the ambulance for over a year and then taught other students some of the skills she learned in CPR and rescue. She is a top student and is attending Cornell University.

This is one of the many areas that we as a Historic Society are proud to be able to sponsor. You can directly support this at any time by giving a donation to be used specifically for this scholarship.

*Susan Hollander Whitman*

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## Seeking Volunteers for Carversville Day Chairpersons!

Carversville Day is a wonderful way to meet the residents and extremely supportive business owners in our area. Whether you are new to the neighborhood or looking to get to know more of your community it is the best way to feel involved. HCS is looking for enthusiastic and energetic volunteers to devote to planning this fun day on May 31, 2014. Email me at [events@carversville.com](mailto:events@carversville.com) with your thoughts or questions. I'd love to hear from you.

*Kathy Stein*



## Films in the Field

This year the weather cooperated two out of our three movie nights. We were able to watch these movies projected onto a large screen hung from the side of the General Store, in the comfort of our own carried in seats. Popcorn was generously provided compliments of the General Store.

This year we tried something a little different. Max Hansen and his General Store provided the food for the films. Instead of our usual grill in the parking lot, Max's staff grilled up hamburgers inside the store. They could be purchased at the same price we always charged outside. In addition, you could order whatever you wanted from the menu to bring outside and sit and eat before or during the movie.

The movies were: "The Old Fashioned Way" with WC Fields and "The Man in the White Suit" with Alec Guinness.

As always, we cannot thank Noel Barrett enough for picking the films and Jack McMillan and Scott Peters for their projection expertise in helping us to see these films. They have volunteered doing this for years, and we more than appreciate their effort, talent and volunteerism.

Mark your calendars for next year: the last Monday of June, July and August, unless otherwise notified!

Let us know what you think of the change with the food. We are certainly open to your comments.

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## I Spy Carversville

Remember Carversville Day in 2008 and 2009 when HCS sponsored a game called: "I Spy Carversville"? It was so much fun watching families comb the village with their booklet of images in hand searching for the hidden historical treasures in plain sight. We've decided to bring it back in our newsletters. We hope you enjoy it!

Here's how it works: We will publish one image per newsletter in this new column/game called: 'I Spy Carversville.' The first person that emails us at [news@carversville.com](mailto:news@carversville.com) with the correct physical address and a picture of yourself with the historical sight will win a treat at Max's Carversville Grocery up to a \$5 value on us! One entry per family. Take a walk together in our fine village with a camera and get back to us!



Please note: All images in the contest are visible from one of the following Village roads in the Historic District: Carversville Road, Aquetong Road, Fleecydale Road, or the Village Square.



## Caroling in the Square

Mark your calendars for Caroling in the Square: **Sunday, December 22 at 6 p.m.** in front of Max's Carversville Grocery. Who knows?! We may have a dusting of snow already as we ring in the season of good cheer around a campfire with warm cider and song. Whether it's *a capella* or with accompaniment, wear your mittens & hats and warm up your voices cause it's always fun to come together and wish each other glad tidings.

Santa will be making an appearance with candy canes and a jolly ole "Ho, Ho Ho" too!





## Archival Collections Survey

One of the missions of the Historic Carversville Society is to collect, preserve, and share all of the unique elements that make up Carversville's history. In keeping with this, we are so excited to have participated this year in The Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collection Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR). The focus of this project is to make better known and more accessible the important and often hidden archival collections held by many small, primarily volunteer-run historical organizations in the Philadelphia area. The project is the brainchild of Jack McCarthy, Project Director, and is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon foundation.

On April 16, 2013 HCI-PSAR project staff surveyed the archival collections of the Historic Carversville Society. In addition to gathering descriptive information on the nature and content of our collections, they also assessed the condition, quality of housing, degree of intellectual and physical access, and overall research value of the collection. We just received an initial report on our collection which includes detailed collection descriptions and assessments, research value ratings, and information on preservation issues and resources for archival collections. We are digesting the information currently and will provide feedback to the project director along with any corrections or additional feedback to complete our assessment. This not only serves as a wonderful tool to help us in our preservation/archival efforts, but also provides a unique window into the history of Carversville for those who might be doing research, or just interested in what makes Carversville SO SPECIAL.

The HCS's archival collections descriptions will be added to the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL) finding aide site, <http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/pacscl/index.html>. This is such a wonderful initiative, and we are grateful to have been able to participate! Please join us at the Annual Membership Meeting in November to learn more!

*Rhonda Heffern*

## Calendar of 2013 Events

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| Sunday, October 27<br>2-4 p.m.                                  | Pumpkin Carving<br>Meadow by the creek<br>beyond the Secret Garden                   |
| Monday, November 18<br>6:30 Social Hour<br>7:30 General Meeting | General Membership Meeting<br>Carversville Inn                                       |
| Sunday, December 22<br>6 p.m.                                   | Caroling in the Square<br>In front of Max's Grocery<br>Be on the look out for Santa! |

## Carversville Day 2013 Recap!

I want to personally thank all volunteers and participants for our 2013 Carversville Day. It was a terrific success and it takes a village to get it all done! I was thrilled to Co-chair the event with Michele Stulpin and Phyllis Haldeman. Thanks to Will and Denie Mathias, Chef and owners of The Carversville Inn, we filled the square with talented vendors, excellent crab cakes & lemonade from Chef Will (I know people come from miles away) and mouth watering specialty tacos from Max Hanson and our ever popular HCS grill. While our eyes were filled with the breadth of local Artists and Artisans, including our own Annie Edwards giving passersby a rug hooking lesson, along with our taste buds getting excited by the air filling with delicious food; we were fortunate to hear two Music acts. First up was the award winning New Hope-Solebury HS Jazz Band to get the morning off to a great start followed by Michelle Wiley and the Hazelrigg Brothers with David Stier on drums. *Can it get any better?!*

The Prestigious Pet Parade was another success even though we dared to change the time and started it an hour earlier - 11am. Cindy and Mark Baicker inspired all our pets to rise to the occasion with pride and confidence....all tails were a waggin'! We upped the ante this year by including two contests - Best Trick and Best Costume - with gift certificates for the winners. Cindy and Mark reported it was difficult to choose the winners since there were so many excellent entries. They said: "Keep them coming for next year! We're ready!" Yes, the contests will be running next year, so practice, practice, practice! Another encore will be presented next year for the Village children, young and old. We are bringing back Rob Melissa who amazed us with his magic that defied all logic.

The ever-popular Cookie Contest that Dr. Howard Barsky has organized for many years was brimming with treats for all. Max Hansen presided over awards for the best in all the categories, while the sweet tooth community itself awarded the coveted 2013 Carversville Day Cookie Jar, a beauty created by Nan Kirstein, to Elizabeth Heffern. Congratulations!

Our Live Arts Auction at 1 p.m. was very lively indeed with Noel Barrett taking care of business before the rain clouds moved in! As you may know, Carversville Day is the HCS's one fund raiser to provide community events such as Pumpkin Carving, Caroling in the Square, Cleanup Day, Films in the Field, along with Scholarships to college bound students, Oral and Written Histories of our community members and architecture and the ever important task of Land Preservation. So mark your calendars for next year, Carversville Day 2014 is going to be May 31<sup>st</sup> the weekend after Memorial Day! Tell your friends! We decided to move it later in May since there are so many wonderful Arts festivals taking place the weekend after Mother's Day. This way we can have our cake, *or better yet*, our cookies, and eat them too!

*Kathy Stein*



The Historic Carversville Society

P. O. Box 41

Carversville, PA 18913

## Membership Form

Now accepting membership dues for 2014

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to  
HCS and mail to:  
Historic Carversville Society  
P. O. Box 41  
Carversville, PA 18913

Annual Membership fee: \$20.00

Plus tax deductible contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_